1/24/02

Mac Users Thoughts on the Computer Standardization Issue

Introduction:

LBNL Mac User Group

* formed on November 1998
* Monthly meetings (~10 per year alternating outside vendors with internal speakers)
* Web Site http://kolson.lbl.gov/
* E-mailing list (~70 to 80 members)

What We Want

1. Lab wide computer services
   * Need to be cross platform

Important services:

* LETS time log currently available for OS 9
* Purchasing ProCard currently available for OS 9
* Travel Browser
* *Calendar currently available for OS X and OS 9*
* *E-mail - currently available for OS X and OS 9*

2. Back-up
   * Need to update current Macintosh back-up system so it is OS X compatible
3. Purchasing of Computers
   * Lab standard Macintosh computer?
   * BOA Agreement with Apple?
   * *Standard software load?*
4. Site License - Volume License
   * Need Microsoft Office for Macintosh site license for Lab

Why We Matter

1. Even a completely standard hardware platform (e.g. A Micron desktop) has components from multiple vendors such as video card, hard drive, etcÉ In contrast, Apple hardware is strongly standardized due to the fact that Apple supplies BOTH hardware and software.

2. Software standardization should be platform-agnostic because you dont know where the future lies. It makes no sense to settle on some proprietary network system client when a Web-based client can do the same thing.

3. Security. Need I say more? Diversity is key. Note- CIA and NAS has deemed the Mac OS X the most secure operating system and will be orange book compliant in 6 months.

4. Apple cost less to maintain. In a fully accounted 36-month Cost of Ownership analysis of a system purchase, a Macintosh user saves $2, 211 more than a Windows user. (GISTICS Executive Education ROI Technology Brief, 1997)
http://www.apple.com/creative/collateral/ama/0101/roi.html

Note- *A committee member pointed out that the study used Win 95 and Windows has improved greatly since then. Rebuttal: The same can be said on the Apple platform, the study looked at Mac OS 7.5 vs. Mac OS 8, Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X.*

5. OS X, UNIX based operating system fully JAVA2 compliant, native PDF graphics, standard TCP/IP networking (Ability to mount PC networked volumes via. SAMBA)

6. Mac are used extensively in the creative arts, sciences and education markets.
Apple Federal Reps Stated at the 1/24/02 Mac User Group Meeting

* ~13000 Macintoshes are in use at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
* ~4000 Macintoshes are in use at NASA AIMS
* ~3000 Macintoshes are in use at JPL
* ~3000 Macintoshes are in use at Los Alamos National Lab
* ~3000 Macintoshes are in use at Sandia National Lab

7. Ok, this might be silly to some, however we are the Department of EnergyÉ The Macintosh platform uses an IBM/Motorola processor (trade name PowerPC) which uses less energy than a comparable Intel based processor. According to an article in August, 2001 MacWorld the following facts should be noted.

* **Apple ships products with power management enabled.** Windows machines often require users to turn those features on. While many PC users know that, some do not, and others simply won't bother with changing anything.

* **Newer Macs in sleep mode significantly beat the government's Energy Star requirements.** To be Energy Star compliant (meeting certain energy-efficiency standards) a system must use 25 watts or fewer per hour while in sleep mode, among other things. A 733MHz Power Mac G4, in contrast, uses only 13.7 watts. And shutting the machine down entirely saves an additional 4.1 watts--maybe not much for individuals, but it could mean significant savings for networks.

* **The G4 chip consumes less power than a Pentium 4.** Take the PowerPC 7410 used in 733MHz Power Mac G4s: it uses 12 to 15 watts in average-consumption mode. Run processor-intensive tasks in Adobe Photoshop, and consumption rises to about 30 watts. A Pentium 4 consumes from 49 to 64 watts during average use.

Conclusion:

Lab-wide systems need to be agnostic! Not only will this benefit the Macintosh and LINUX Community, it will also benefit those who prefer to use NT/2000/XP verses the Lab Standard Windows 98 SE. The Macintosh community understands that backend databases, and database development tools and job specific management and financial application may not be available for the Macintosh platform. However, with the advent of the web, those databases should be developed with a web-based user interface. Using standard HTML, and JAVA would be more advantageous to use because you dont have the headaches of installing client based applications. I look forward to working with you to make this a reality.

Note *Italic print signifies additional items that were discuss during the meeting*